

S. Petersburg Oct: ¹⁴/₂₅ 1781.

Dear Sir

My last to you was from Amsterdam by Com: Gillon in the S.^t Carolina frigate, which has probably arrived before this time. I should have been happy to have had leisure en^d to have wrote you when my first dispatches went from hence: but here I am without any mortal to assist me, except the son of our friend who is still with me. I hope most sincerely my business will be finished here early in next ^{year} that I may return once more to our beloved Country; for I am most heartily weary of this ^{old} world. I cannot yet say whether this is even probable, before I have made my communication, which I have rather delayed doing, to avoid creating any difference with the 5. 1. 5. 13. 13. 8. 12. 19. 14. 8. 2. 20. 4. 1. than from any other consideration. I am however opposed on all sides, except one, that things will go as they should do. But patience is every where the word. But if my patience should be exhausted before affairs are properly matured, I trust, considering the great distance there is between us, and the time which must be lost in waiting for ~~a~~ for a formal permission that I shall be excused quitting the ground whenever I become persuaded that it is to little purpose to remain upon it. You are not to suppose from hence that I am discouraged, far otherwise: and if some evil genius does not take the rule, I shall hope to do the thing which is needful here by the middle of next year. I confess it would be a great mortification to me to return without

accomplishing the business of my mission; that done, I shall not be
at ease till I put my foot again on the promised Land. I have
now seen into of this world to convince me ours is the best of all
possible worlds. - But let me ask what are you about there; do
you seriously mean to attack New-York? I am not ignorant of
the plan which has been settled for this purpose, but I cannot yet
realize it that it will be carried into execution. Some penicose
accident or other, I fear, will render again all your hopes abortive.
The accomplishment of this plan would be of the last importance
to our Country. It would put the trumps in our hands, and we could
finish the game most successfully: For I take it for granted, it would
soon rid the whole of our Country off our Enemies. And we might
spread the net for S^r. Francis's favourite D^{ish} - I have a ~~strong~~
notion that 14.4.18.27.22.12.24. intends by every possible exertion
that we shall be freed from 19.18.5.4.24.5.12.8.2.24.24.5.6.25.20.
8.11.20.8.25.14.14.24.12.24. My 15.19.19.2.11.18.24. is my 4.7.3.11.4.19.
8.5.5.17.19.7.7.3. Do you doubt this? Should it not be so, why then
we shall soon see, that ^{it} is not. And if all goes right. I say let us
strike hands with Placentia and on for Custodia. Remember
the great national object is 19.25.13.2.25.4. Besides, we get between
Laconia's legs, and you ^{know} the benefits of such a situation. And this
ends at once the matter that lies in Petto about 15.15.24.14.12.19.2.25.
20. which you may rely upon it will be serious business if we
don't effect a change there. Strike at the root, Custodia is the
word. Adieu my dear Sir. May Heaven prosper all our honest
designs. I am with much sincerity your friend & b^{le}. Serv^t

Hon^{ble} James Lovell - RW114(1)

PW DMM

French minister — ally — the Enemy by nego-
tiation only — piscary — exclusive Right — Tom Cod —
Penobscot.

Oct ¹⁴/₂₅ 1781
from m^r? F. Dana 2
rec^d. april 2. 82

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